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Dated: March 10, 2004

Signature: 

(Victoria A. Wilson)

Docket No.: 399242000602
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
George D. HERMANN et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR USE IN
MINIMALLY INVASIVE APPROXIMATION
OF MUSCLE AND OTHER TISSUE

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.